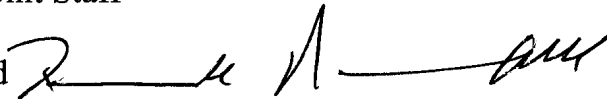


July 12, 2002 11:58 AM

TO: Deputy Secretary of Defense
Secretaries of the Military Departments
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Undersecretaries of Defense
Military Chiefs of Staff
General Counsel of the Department of Defense
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs
Director of the Joint Staff

FROM:

Donald Rumsfeld



SUBJECT: The Impact of Leaking Classified Information

I have spoken publicly and privately, countless times, about the danger of leaking classified information. It is wrong. It is against the law. It costs the lives of Americans. It diminishes our country's chance for success.

Attached is an unclassified CIA assessment of the impact of leaks on the global war on terrorism. The disclosure of classified information is damaging our country's ability to stop terrorist acts and is putting American lives at risk.

Your leadership is needed to help stop leaks. Please meet with your staff to discuss the seriousness of the damaging lack of professionalism we continue to see on a daily basis.

Please let Larry Di Rita know after you have had the discussion with your staff of any feedback you feel would be helpful.

Thanks.

Attach.

06/14/02 CIA Memorandum

DHR:dh
062802-1

U11159 /02

JUN 17 2002

14 June 2002

Memorandum

In response to a request for unclassified information regarding the impact of leaks on the war against terrorism:

Al-Qa'ida is a savvy, experienced terrorist organization that has watched the US for years, and it pays close attention to publicly available information that will help it evade US intelligence. ***A growing body of reporting indicates that al-Qa'ida planners have learned much about our counterterrorist intelligence capabilities from US and foreign media.***

- Information obtained from captured detainees has revealed that al-Qa'ida operatives are extremely security conscious and have altered their practices in response to what they have learned from the press about our capabilities. (U)

The cumulative effect of public disclosures of classified, terrorism-related information—including significant losses from such disclosures predating 11 September—has jeopardized highly fragile and very sensitive intelligence capabilities that we require for the successful prosecution of the war against terrorism.

- Disclosures of classified information also reduce the willingness of potential allies, volunteers, and sources in foreign countries to work with us out of fear of having their cooperation publicized in the press. (U)

When lost, we attempt to rebuild these capabilities and relationships when we can, but these efforts take time and are expensive. (U)